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25 May 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Iraq-USSR: (Iraq is canceling arrangements negotiated by the Qasim regime for acquiring surface-to-air missiles from the Soviet Union.)

(Baghdad has advised the USSR that it cannot afford the project, which probably would have cost Iraq about \$15 million. The equipment received in the first of three scheduled shipments apparently will be stored until it can be returned, and Iraqi military personnel attached to the project are being reassigned.)

[REDACTED]

The Soviet officer in charge of the missile project has protested the Iraqi decision. The USSR may offer to modify its repayment schedule as inducement to the Iraqis to reconsider. [REDACTED]

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British Guiana - Cuba: (Premier Jagan is trying to arrange a deal with Cuba to barter rice for other food and fuel.)

Jagan has asked a representative of the government-run Rice Marketing Board to go to Cuba "immediately" to dispose of some 20,000 tons of surplus rice in return for Cuban goods which the government proposes to sell to the public. Shortages of food and fuel are acute in British Guiana because of the continuing general strike--now in its fifth week--and because of shipping boycotts by foreign unions sympathetic to the strikers.)

Sales of Cuban products for cash would also bail Jagan out of his financial problems in connection with the Rice Marketing Board, which is near bankruptcy because of mismanagement by one of his appointees. If this fact becomes public, Jagan might well lose his considerable popularity with the labor force in the rice industry.)

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Argentina: (Raul Matera's resignation as Peronist party president on 23 May signals the beginning of more aggressive Peronist actions against the government and possibly against holding the general elections scheduled for 7 July.)

(Denouncing the official ban against Peronist candidates for president, Matera said that for the past year he had been trying to reincorporate the Peronists into the democratic life of the nation, but now someone who would try "other roads" would have to replace him.)

(Matera, who completely responds to Peron's orders, timed his threatening announcement to coincide with the Peronist-led "Week of Protest," which is now in progress and is to end in a general strike on 31 May. [redacted])

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[redacted] activities are meeting an unexpectedly favorable response in the provinces. This reaction, however, probably reflects a working-class protest against economic hardships-- which are unusually severe at this time--and not a general desire to sabotage the elections, as the organizers may hope.)

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DAILY BRIEF

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Communist China - North Korea: The North Korean Chief of State accompanied by a top-level government and party delegation will visit Communist China early next month at the invitation of Liu Shao-chi. Peiping has given front-page treatment to the visit--announced on 23 May--and will probably publicize Chinese-Korean solidarity as part of the Chinese preparation for the bilateral Moscow meeting now set for 5 July. North Korea has been Peiping's staunchest Asian supporter in its dispute with Moscow.

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Colombia: A state of siege has been declared in Colombia's major oil region following clashes there between army units and demonstrators on 22 May. The violence--resulting in one death and 20 wounded--was an outgrowth of a month-old oil workers' strike which has severely depressed local economic activity. According to press reports similar "civic strikes" protesting cost-of-living increases may break out elsewhere, spurred by Communist agitators.

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*France-NATO: France will shortly announce its decision to withdraw from NATO those naval units which were left when the bulk of the French fleet was removed from NATO command in 1959. The move will affect the Light Squadron, which consists of seven destroyer-type ships operating in the Atlantic. The timing of the new withdrawal from NATO may have been influenced by the planned shift of a major portion of the French Mediterranean Squadron--including two new aircraft carriers--to the Atlantic.

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DAILY BRIEF

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